

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9812

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3341

1. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THIS MAY BE FAMILIAR TO EMBASSY KABUL, SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OBSERVATIONS MADE TO US BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MORRIS ON HIS VISIT LAST WEEK TO KABUL MAY BE WORTH RECORDING.

2. MORRIS, WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO AFGHANISTAN, SAID THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH HAD TOLD HIM THAT GOA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN LOWERING LEVEL OF PROPAGANDA BECAUSE PAK OUTPUT WAS SO CRUDE AND STUPID THAT IT WORKED TO AFGHANISTAN'S ADVANTAGE. ACCORDING TO MORRIS, ABDULLAH CITED AS EXAMPLE QUETTA RADIO BROADCAST CHARGING THAT FORMER MINISTER PASHWAK WAS BEING TORTURED IN PRISON AT A TIME WHEN "ANYONE IN KABUL COULD SEE HIM WALKING THE STREETS OF THE CITY IN FREEDOM AND UNHARMED". ABDULLAH CLAIMED, DUBIOUSLY IN MORRIS' VIEW, THAT PAK HARZA AND FARSI BROADCASTS HAD STRENGTHENED LOYALTY OF THOSE MINORITY GROUPS. ABDULLAH ALSO TOLD MORRIS THAT GOA WOULD LOWER LEVEL OF INVECTIVE IF PAKS TOOK THE LEAD, BUT MORRIS SAID IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CLEAR HE WAS IN NO HURRY TO SEE THIS HAPPEN.

3. IN REVIEWING THE TRANSIT IMBROGLIO WITH MORRIS, WAHID ABDULLAH CONFIRMED THAT GOA HAD BEEN TOLD OF BHUTTO'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION (REFTEL). ABDULLAH SAID THAT AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED THIS WORD HE SENT A CABLE TO GOP MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE. (WE HAD NOT HEARD HERE OF SUCH A GOA MESSAGE BEFORE.)

4. MORRIS ALSO MENTIONED THAT ABDULLAH STRESSED TO HIM THAT AFGHANS WANT A SETTLEMENT WITH PAKISTAN AND REGARD THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AS WASTEFUL TO BOTH "FRATERNAL NATIONS". HE URGED MORRIS TO CARRY THAT MESSAGE BACK TO ISLAMABAD.

5. MORRIS GOT IMPRESSION THAT GOA WAS EXPECTING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM IRANIANS ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WHEN PRESIDENT DAUD VISITED IRAN.

6. MORRIS RECOUNTED THAT IN FAREWELL CALL ON HIM IN KABUL BY OUTGOING SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN, SAUDI HAD MENTIONED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME INTEREST IN THE HOLDING OF A MUSLIM SUMMIT WHICH WOULD SEEK TO SETTLE THE PAK-AFGHAN DISPUTE. MORRIS ASSUMED THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PROJECT OF KING FAISAL'S. HE THOUGHT THAT THE SAUDI INTENDED TO CHECK WHEN IN RIYADH TO SEE WHERE MATTERS STOOD WITH THE NEW SAG, AND THAT THE SAUDI MIGHT PLAY A ROLE IN GETTING SOMETHING ORGANIZED THERE BEFORE GOING ON TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN KUALA LUMPUR. MORRIS SAID THAT THIS IS THE FIRST HE HAD EVER HEARD OF SUCH A SUMMIT POSSIBILITY. (WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING ON THE SCORE HERE.)
BYROADE

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